# § 12.101 Functions and responsibilities of the Judgment Officer.

The Judgment Officer shall be responsible for the fair and orderly conduct of the proceeding and shall have the authority:

- (a) To rule upon discovery-related motions, and to issue orders pertaining to discovery:
- (b) To take such action pursuant to §12.35 as is appropriate if a party fails to comply with a discovery order;
- (c) To issue subpoenas pursuant to \$12.36 of these rules:
- (d) To issue orders of default for good cause shown against any party who fails to participate in the proceeding, or to comply with any provisions of these rules:
  - (e) To receive submissions of proof;
- (f) Make the final decision in accordance with §12.106 of these rules; and
- (g) Issue such orders as are necessary and appropriate to effectuate the orderly conduct of the proceeding.

 $[49~\mathrm{FR}~6621,~\mathrm{Feb}.~22,~1984;~49~\mathrm{FR}~15070,~\mathrm{Apr}.~17,~1984]$ 

#### § 12.102 Disqualification of Judgment Officer.

(a) At his own request. A Judgment Officer may withdraw from a voluntary decisional proceeding when he considers himself to be disqualified on the grounds of personal bias, conflict of interest, or similar bases. In such event he shall immediately notify the Commission and each of the parties of his withdrawal and of his basis for such action.

(b) Upon the request of a party. Any party may request a Judgment Officer to disqualify himself on the grounds of personal bias, conflict of interest, or similar bases. Interlocutory review of an adverse ruling by the Judgment Officer may be sought without certification of the matter by the Judgment Officer only in accordance with the procedures set forth in §12.309 of the Reparation Rules.

## § 12.103 Filing of documents; subscription; service.

Except as otherwise specifically provided in these rules, all documents filed in a voluntary decisional proceeding, including (but not limited to) amended or supplemental pleadings,

motions, discovery requests and responses thereto, and submissions of proof, shall meet the requirements of §§12.11 and 12.12 of the Reparation Rules as to form, and shall be filed and served in accordance with §12.10 of the Reparation Rules.

### § 12.104 Amendments to pleadings; motions.

- (a) Amendments and supplemental pleadings. At any time prior to the issuance of the final decision, the parties may, by unanimous express written consent, amend or supplement the pleadings. Supplemental pleadings may set forth transactions or occurrences or events which have happened since the date of the pleadings to be amended or supplemented, and which are relevant to any of the issues involved.
- (b) Motions. Except as specifically permitted by rule in this subpart, motions, other than discovery-related motions and motions relating to procedural orders, shall be prohibited. Motions for procedural orders, including motions for extension of time, may be acted upon at any time.

# §12.105 Submission of proof only in documentary or tangible form.

Proof in support of the complaint and in support of the respondent's answer (including counterclaims, if any), and any reply thereto, may be found in those verified documents, in verified statements of non-party witnesses, in other verified statements of fact, and in other documents and tangible evidence. No oral testimony by, or examination of, the parties or their witnesses shall be permitted.

#### §12.106 Final decision and order.

(a) When a final decision is required. After all submissions of proof have been received, the Judgment Officer shall make the final decision. Upon its issuance, the final decision shall forthwith be filed with the Proceedings Clerk, and immediately served on the parties. The Proceedings Clerk shall also serve a notice, to accompany the final decision, of the effect of a failure by a party ordered to pay a reparation award to file the documents required by §12.407(c) of these rules.